

time when we are facing the growing and, as yet, unknown total costs of completing the war against Iraq, fighting terrorism, protecting the homeland, while meeting essential needs like health care for our seniors and education for our young people. The Federal Government's role in addressing these issues is especially important at this time because state governments, including my state of Delaware, are experiencing severe budget problems forcing them to reduce funding for virtually every program at the state level.

The fact of the matter is that deficits do matter. Due in part to the economic slowdown and the costs of the war on terrorism, we are now facing federal deficits over the next ten years that could approach \$4.2 trillion. Adding debt at these levels can hurt the economy. In addition, they will come at a time when we will begin to face tremendous demands to fund the retirement of the Baby Boom generation and the growing health care needs of an aging population. If the tax cuts called for in this budget resolution are ultimately approved, we are really rolling the dice on whether they will strengthen the economy significantly or add to the growing deficit challenges we face.

I must also oppose this resolution based on the poor process that has brought us to this point. We are voting on this budget in the middle of the night because a compromise on a more realistic tax cut level could not be reached and the decision was made to try to force this through. Instead of attempting to find consensus on a more limited level of tax cuts of \$350 billion, which would provide more rapid tax relief for families and small businesses, this resolution not only expresses support for a total package of \$1.2 trillion in tax cuts, it attempts to get around the fact that the Senate is on record for limiting the tax cut to \$350 billion. This resolution creates an unprecedented loophole in the budget process to protect up to \$550 billion in tax cuts through an expedited Senate vote. Despite the fact that budget resolutions are supposed to establish one set of rules for considering tax legislation. This resolution makes it possible for a second, higher tax cut bill to get a protected vote in the Senate.

This is not a time when Congress should be attempting to force through the largest tax cut possible regardless of its economic effectiveness when we face the costs of war, serious challenges at home and the return of long-term budget deficits.

My constituents tell me that it does not make sense to rush forward with tax cuts of this size before we have won the war with Iraq, understand its true cost, and evaluate the recovery of the economy and what is needed to help working Americans.

A better solution would have been to seek agreement on a more affordable tax relief package that would help the economy now; allow us to pay for our national security needs abroad and at home; and provide limited, but fair funding for key needs like education and health care, all within a realistic long-term plan to balance the federal budget.

Unfortunately, because of the decision to push for maximum tax cuts over the reservations of Members of both parties, this resolution does not meet the overall test of fiscal responsibility and common sense. This budget plan is seriously flawed and I must oppose it. When it comes time to pass the actual tax and spending legislation to implement this budget

plan, I hope more reason and fairness are applied and we take action that helps the American people now without mortgaging their future.

CONGRESSMAN PHILLIP BURTON

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share my great appreciation for and admiration of the late Congressman Phillip Burton. During his two decades in the House of Representatives—from 1964 to 1983—Congressman Burton was a great champion for the interests of the people of the Bay Area. Time and time again, Congressman Burton fought for the little people, ranging from the underprivileged to seniors to workers. His voice was loud and strong for these people. And his voice was persuasive in bringing people of all backgrounds and different ways of life together.

I had the privilege to know Congressman Burton while serving as a Hill staffer to Congressman Ronald V. Dellums. He was brilliant, compassionate, and a political whiz. During a reapportionment year, I remember Phil explaining to Ron the rationale for the boundaries of Ron's proposed new long District, and he said, "Don't worry, Ron, you are in your brother's arms."

Powerful voice that he was for his constituents, Congressman Burton will probably best be known for his respect for the environment. His record of establishing and preserving parks, wilderness areas, trails, and rivers may be unparalleled in the history of this country. As the Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks, the Congressman did everything that he could to protect our precious natural resources. His National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 represents one of the most sweeping pieces of environmental legislation ever to pass Congress. That legislation doubled the national wild and scenic rivers system, tripled our national trails systems, and, by adding more than 2 million acres, doubled the wilderness acreage in the National Park Service.

In California, the Congressman's legislation ultimately protected nearly 5 percent of the state's land, including Redwood National Park. Even closer to my 9th Congressional District, Congressman Burton strengthened the beautiful Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Congressman Burton's contribution to our state and country has become recognized as an impressive legacy in the two decades since his death. Our appreciation of Congressman Burton and his efforts will no doubt grow only stronger in the coming decades as we struggle to preserve our precious, finite resources.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION REQUIRING DOOR-TO-DOOR DELIVERY SERVICE FOR SENIORS

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would require door-to-door delivery service for senior citizens.

Over the years, I have been contacted by many seniors who live in adult-restricted communities and receive their mail in "cluster" mailboxes. This means that their mail is delivered to one central location instead of being placed in a mailbox at their own doorstep. With this type of mail delivery, seniors are forced to endure steps, curbs, bad weather, and moving cars in order to pick up their mail. Under these circumstances, something as simple as receiving mail can be one of the most inconvenient and dangerous daily tasks for those who are elderly.

Therefore, I am introducing this legislation to require the U.S. Postal Service to make door-to-door deliveries in senior housing areas. Under this bill, 80 percent of the residents in a community must be 55 and older in order to qualify to receive this service. Door-to-door deliveries would begin six months after enactment. Also, the bill clarifies that senior apartment buildings are specifically excluded from this bill.

It is imperative that we help our seniors receive their mail without putting their lives in danger, and I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important bill.

REMEMBERING REPRESENTATIVE PHILLIP BURTON

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, for those of us who served in this House with the late Phillip Burton, who remember his vibrant, unrelenting and passionate leadership, and who share his dreams for an America where every resident enjoys dignity and equality—for those of us fortunate enough to have known and collaborated with him, today is a day of rededication.

It is almost impossible to believe that 20 years have passed since Phil Burton departed this scene, far too early and, I am sure he would admit, with far too much work left undone. He served with distinction in this Chamber from 1964 to the day he died, 20 years ago today. They simply do not make politicians like Phil Burton anymore, or at least, not enough of them, and this House and the country are much the worse for the shortage.

Those who worked with Phil never forgot the experience, for good or bad. He was a brilliant tactician, an unrelenting liberal, and a tireless advocate. He was not especially lovable, but he wasn't looking for love; he was looking for results, and he won the respect of friends and adversaries alike.

Phil would not like what he would see in American politics today. After decades of struggle and a decade of unparalleled economic prosperity, Americans work the longest work hours, for the lowest disposable income, with the smallest pensions and health insurance coverage and the least vacation time or maternity leave of any Western industrial nation. Today, the distribution of wealth in this country is more unequal than at any time since the New Deal, and is the most unequal of any society in the advanced industrial world. This is not the world Phil Burton would have wanted two decades after his death.

And yet our country in 2003, however enduring its problems, is a vastly better place for